

Washington D.C. - September 14, 2009

Since the beginning of July, I've held a series of 12 town halls on healthcare reform-one in each county of the First Congressional District. These meetings were both highly energized and highly attended, showing just how important this issue is.

I heard many of the same concerns throughout my town hall tour. Some families told me how they are being squeezed to the breaking point by rising health insurance premiums. Others are concerned about the impact of the plan's cost on the federal deficit. Still others want to know if rumors about the proposed plan were myths or facts.

First, I believe we need to act on reform because healthcare costs are rising and quality care is hard for middle class families to afford. If we do nothing, costs will continue to skyrocket. I agree that we need to be mindful of the plan's impact on the federal deficit. I believe that if reform is done the right way, we can even save money.

I believe the debate over healthcare reform should focus on the facts, not fear. For example, the healthcare reform plan won't "pull the plug on grandma" or create "death panels." Instead, we should be talking about the most effective ways to make healthcare more affordable and improve the quality of care.

The truth is, we still have a lot of work to do. As Congress gets set to vote on reform this fall, I'll be taking your feedback from these town halls with me as I work to enact meaningful changes in healthcare that help Iowa families.

As the debate continues here in Washington, I welcome your questions and opinions. For the latest news on the healthcare debate, please visit the healthcare page on my website at: <http://braley.house.gov/healthcare>

